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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

September 14, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

I urge you to use your constitutional authority to require debate and a vote on the Iran nuclear arms deal. It is appalling that obstructionists led by Sen. Harry Reid have prevented the Senate from debating, let alone voting, on one of the most important national security treaties in decades.

As you know, the constitutional option has a long history. Harry Reid used it in the last Congress when he was Majority Leader to circumvent a filibuster on judicial appointments. He also was prepared to use it to place people on the National Labor Relations Board. That's exactly what I'm asking you to do, except this would be in the interest of national security, not about a judgeship or a position on the NLRB.

Whether Congress can change its rules for debate was addressed in 1892 when the Supreme Court (in *United States v. Ballin*) made clear that the Senate leader has the authority to set the rules for debating important matters before that chamber. In that case, Justice Brewer noted: "The Constitution empowers each house to determine its rules of proceedings."

National security is too important to be held hostage by partisan obstructionists who won't even allow a debate on the issue. I urge you to use your constitutional authority to break the filibuster and move forward with debate and a vote on the Iran nuclear deal. Too much is at stake.

Sincerely,

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress